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Sam Brownback, Governor

May 4, 2012

Karl Brooks, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

RE: Proposed Listing of the former United Zinc & Associated Smelters Site, Iola, Kan. on the National Priorities List

Dear Administrator Brooks:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2012, describing the proposed listing of the former United Zinc & Associated Smelters site on the National Priorities List (NPL). The site, as described in your letter, would include property in and around the City of Iola, located west of Highway 169 and excluding those areas known to be uncontaminated or that are being addressed by other State Response Programs.

Staff from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) indicates that the United Zinc Site is a former smelting operation, which operated in the early 1900's. Lead, arsenic and cadmium contamination from operations at the facility have resulted in primarily lead contamination scattered throughout various residential areas surrounding the facility. Over the last several years, the removal actions conducted consisted of removing lead-contaminated soil from residential yards. Approximately \$2 million of Federal funding has been spent thus far and additional funding is needed to finish this large project. There are still numerous residential and commercial properties that are negatively impacted by this contamination. KDHE and EPA have held several public meetings with the Iola City Council to discuss the situation and future remedies.

KDHE has indicated understanding that because substantial remedial work remains to be conducted at this site, this work can most effectively be addressed through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). As indicated by KDHE and your letter, the City of Iola supports listing of the former United Zinc site so the remaining corrective action can be completed.

Based on information provided by KDHE, the State of Kansas supports the decision to proceed with listing of the United Zinc & Associated Smelters site on the NPL.

Please contact Mr. John Mitchell, Director of the Division of Environment at KDHE at (785) 296-1535, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Sam Brownback
Governor

cc: Robert Moser, Secretary, KDHE
John Mitchell, DOE Director, KDHE
The Honorable William A. Shirley, Mayor, City of Iola

